

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

EMMITT LEWIS,

Petitioner,

vs.

LARRY SMALL, Warden,

Respondent.

No. C 09-2357 WHA (PR)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE;  
DENIAL OF MOTIONS FOR  
LEAVE TO PROCEED IN  
FORMA PAUPERIS**

This is a habeas case filed pro se by a state prisoner. He also requests leave to proceed in forma pauperis.

Venue is proper because the conviction was obtained in San Francisco County, which is in this district. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d).

**STATEMENT**

A jury convicted petitioner of first degree felony-murder and second degree robbery. With sentencing enhancements, he was sentenced to prison for twenty-five years to life. His conviction was affirmed on direct appeal by the California Court of Appeal, and the California Supreme Court denied review.

**DISCUSSION**

**A. STANDARD OF REVIEW**

This court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus "in behalf of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States." 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a); *Rose v. Hodges*, 423 U.S. 19, 21 (1975). Habeas corpus petitions must meet heightened pleading requirements. *McFarland v. Scott*, 512 U.S. 849, 856 (1994). An application for a federal writ

1 of habeas corpus filed by a prisoner who is in state custody pursuant to a judgment of a state  
2 court must “specify all the grounds for relief which are available to the petitioner ... and shall  
3 set forth in summary form the facts supporting each of the grounds thus specified.” Rule 2(c) of  
4 the Rules Governing § 2254 Cases, 28 U.S.C. foll. § 2254. “[N]otice’ pleading is not  
5 sufficient, for the petition is expected to state facts that point to a ‘real possibility of  
6 constitutional error.’” Rule 4 Advisory Committee Notes (quoting *Aubut v. Maine*, 431 F.2d  
7 688, 689 (1st Cir. 1970). “Habeas petitions which appear on their face to be legally  
8 insufficient are subject to summary dismissal.” *Calderon v. United States Dist. Court*  
9 (*Nicolaus*), 98 F.3d 1102, 1108 (9th Cir. 1996) (Schroeder, J., concurring).

10 **B. LEGAL CLAIMS**

11 As grounds for federal habeas relief, petitioner asserts that: (1) his Sixth and Fourteenth  
12 Amendment rights were violated by the trial court’s refusal to instruct on a lesser included  
13 offense; (2) his counsel was ineffective; and (3) his Sixth and Fourteenth Amendment rights  
14 were violated by the trial court’s denial of his motion to sever his case from that of his co-  
15 defendant. These claims are sufficient to require a response.

16 **CONCLUSION**

17 1. In light of petitioner’s prisoner account balance and income, leave to proceed in  
18 forma pauperis (documents number 4 and 5 on the docket) is **DENIED**. Petitioner shall pay the  
19 five dollar (\$5) filing fee within thirty days of the date this order is entered. If he does not, the  
20 case will be dismissed.

21 2. The clerk shall mail a copy of this order and the petition with all attachments to the  
22 respondent and the respondent’s attorney, the Attorney General of the State of California. The  
23 clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on the petitioner.

24 3. Respondent shall file with the court and serve on petitioner, within sixty days of  
25 service of this order, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule 5 of the Rules Governing  
26 Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of habeas corpus should not be granted.  
27 Respondent shall file with the answer and serve on petitioner a copy of all portions of the state  
28 trial record that have been transcribed previously and that are relevant to a determination of the  
issues presented by the petition.


1 If petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a traverse with the  
2 court and serving it on respondent within thirty days of service of the answer.

3 4. Respondent may file a motion to dismiss on procedural grounds in lieu of an answer,  
4 as set forth in Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases. If respondent files such a  
5 motion, petitioner shall file with the court and serve on respondent an opposition or statement  
6 of non-opposition within thirty days of receipt of the motion, and respondent shall file with the  
7 court and serve on petitioner a reply within 15 days of receipt of any opposition. If a motion is  
8 filed it will be ruled upon without oral argument, unless otherwise ordered.

9 5. Petitioner is reminded that all communications with the court must be served on  
10 respondent by mailing a copy of the document to respondent's counsel. Papers intended to be  
11 filed in this case should be addressed to the clerk rather than to the undersigned. Petitioner also  
12 must keep the court informed of any change of address by filing a separate paper with the clerk  
13 headed "Notice of Change of Address," and comply with any orders of the court within the time  
14 allowed, or ask for an extension of that time. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this  
15 action for failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). *See Martinez*  
16 *v. Johnson*, 104 F.3d 769, 772 (5th Cir. 1997) (Rule 41(b) applicable in habeas cases).

17 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

18 Dated: July 27, 2009.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
WILLIAM ALSUP  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28 G:\PRO-SE\WHA\HC.09\LEWIS2357.osc.wpd